

"Where are you going, Little Owl? Is there something wrong?" asked the Wise Old Owl. "You appear to be distressed for some reason, and I would like to help you if I could."

Little Owl hid his head in his wings and cried, "Oh, Wise Owl, I am so afraid that I have finally been sent from the nest forever. I said disrespectful things to my mother, the Good Owl, and my father has sent me away." Little Owl was in tears and he cried without control.

Wise Old Owl thought silently to himself for a moment and then he spoke. "Little Owl, I have some advice for you. You are a young and very smart owl. However, you wish for things to be so before they can be."

"I do not understand what you are saying," said Little Owl. "I will listen to what you say, but I think you are too old to see my problem."

Wise Old Owl chuckled to himself, and he gathered Little Owl into his wings and began to talk to him. "Little Owl," he said, "I know your parents and I know that they have raised you to be a good Little Owl. What I do not understand is your impatience to grow up. I, myself, am very old; and now I wish to be young and foolish. You are different from me in that you wish to be old and wise. You also wish to have a big nest with a wife and many eggs to hatch. You must earn them and you must also grow. Then you will have these things and you will speak to your mother and father without disrespect."

Little Owl thought about the things that Wise Old Owl had said to him. In time, he grew to be an older owl himself, and he had a mother owl and a nest full of baby owls. His oldest baby owl made Little Owl very angry because he wanted all of the food that Mother

Owl brought to the nest for him. Little Owl scolded him every day, but the young owl did not seem to listen.

Finally Little Owl sent his son to see the Wise Old Owl. Wise Old Owl was very old and very wise by this time, and he talked to the young owl as he had talked to Little Owl years ago. The young owl understood what the Wise Old Owl had said. He said he was sorry to his father, Little Owl, and that he would try to grow up to be a good owl, too.

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